



(19)

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(11)

EP 0 852 443 A2

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
08.07.1998 Bulletin 1998/28

(51) Int Cl. 6: H04N 7/173, G06F 17/30

(21) Application number: 98300019.1

(22) Date of filing: 05.01.1998

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC
NL PT SE
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: 03.01.1997 US 34683 P

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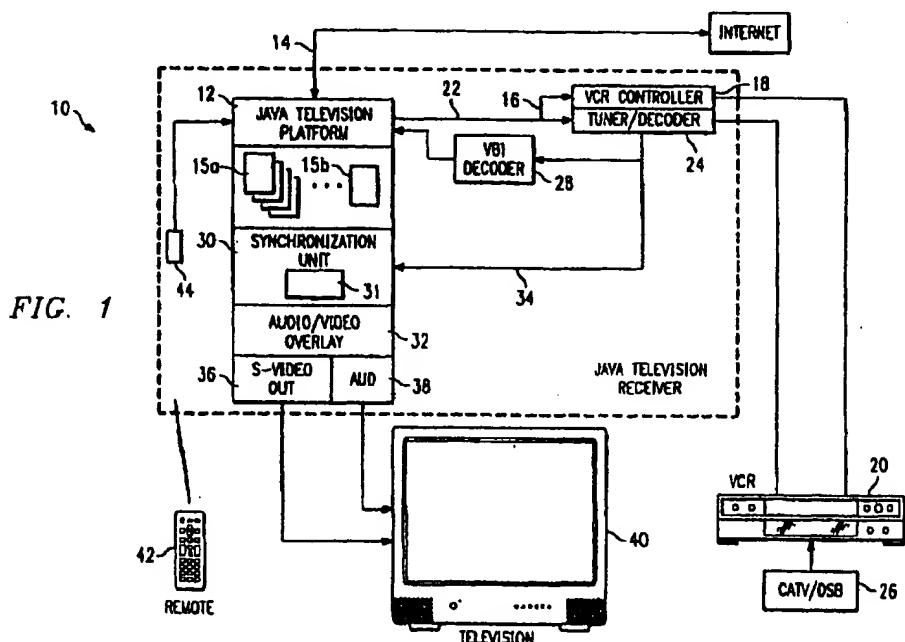
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(54) An apparatus for producing interactive television programs

(57) A Java television receiver (10) includes a Java television platform (12) that has a bidirectional Internet connection (14) capable of sending Internet data to the Java television platform (12) and transmitting data from the Java television platform (12) to an Internet provider. Additionally, a memory (13) is included to store a deck of showlet cards (15a) downloaded from the Internet. A tuner/decoder (24) connected to the Java television platform (12) is provided which can receive, tune and

decode television signals. An audio/video overlay (32) connected to the Java television platform is provided to combine a showlet card (15b) from the Java television platform (12) and television signals from the tuner/decoder (24). The display of showlet cards (15b) and television signals is coordinated by a synchronization unit (30). Finally, a video output (36) and an audio output (38) sends the combined Internet data and television signals to a television (40).



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